

# THE VINDICATION OF GOD'S NAME

*made possible through*

THE  
TESTIMONY  
OF  
JESUS CHRIST

AND

THE  
FAITHFULNESS  
OF  
HIS SAINTS

## Each day moves us toward eternity...

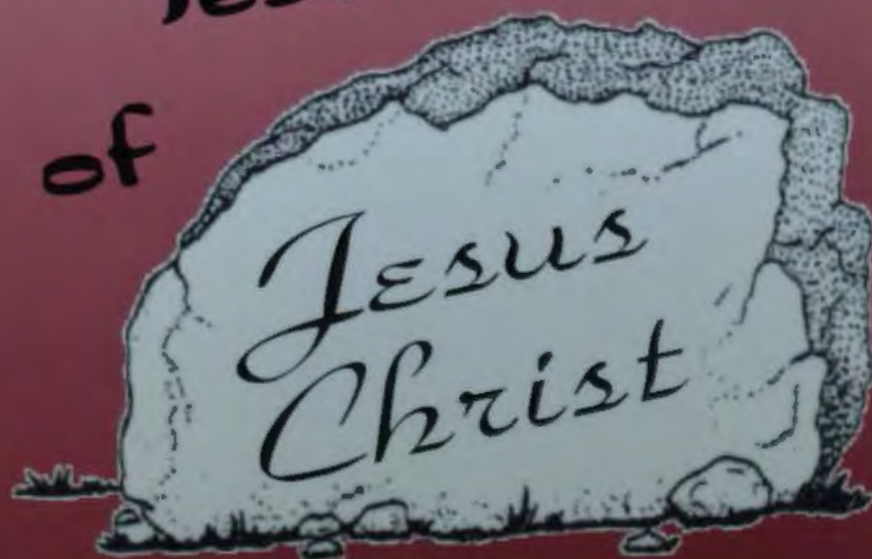
Many know little instruction from the Master,  
others seldom give Him a passing thought...

Were we left with no hope? Do we only have  
confusion and doubt to fill the heart?

Friend, have you met Him? Have you  
encountered His smile in your life today,  
still you may struggle with life...

yet we have His promise and we have

## The Testimony of



# The Vindication of God's Name

**Rev. 1:2-3 Heb. 1:1-2**

## **Acknowledgment**

*I want to give my whole hearted gratitude to my Heavenly Father for the wisdom He has given me to understand His prophecies for this final generation of time. I will also always be grateful to His Son Jesus Christ who so perfectly did His Father's will in presenting this testimony to the world. It has been a great blessing to be a student of the Holy Spirit as He has taught me these truths and has shown me things that are to come to pass. And I cannot forget the part the angels have played in the work of salvation for mankind; for this I will always be thankful. And now my greatest desire is that as you read this material, you will receive wisdom to understand the truths presented in these pages. My petition to God is that He will help you in this endeavor.*

**Jim Renfro**

## ***Introduction***

In reading this material there is some information you need to know about this study. You will notice that I do not cover the entire subject—for instance, the seven seals of Revelation 4-7. I only speak to three or four of the seals. The reason is threefold: (1) To keep from having too long of a study; (2) I am only trying to help you understand where, when and why these prophecies will take place; and (3) I hope it will leave you interested enough to study further on these subjects. Also, the books of Daniel and Revelation are end-time books. In other words, they would not be opened to our understanding until the last generation of this earth's history. Jesus sets forth this truth in both Matthew 24 and Luke 21, when He says: "This generation [that you see these things happen in] shall not pass till all these things be fulfilled." You will see as you read this book that these two chapters, Matthew 24 and Luke 21, are very much connected to the prophecies of the books of Daniel and Revelation. I also feel compelled to share my belief after fully studying and understanding the testimony of Jesus for these last days—that probation for this entire world will close sometime between now and October 1997. I make this statement not to set time, but to draw your attention to the seriousness of the times in which we live. I will give the reason for this statement later in these studies—watch for it!

## **The Vindication of God's Name**

### **Topics of interest**

1. God's name will be vindicated only after the judgment of Daniel 7 and Revelation 20 is over.
2. The church of Philadelphia mentioned by our Lord in Revelation 3 is the church for which our Lord is coming at His second coming. It is the only church of all the seven that Christ has found to be without fault. The other six churches had some faithful ones in them, but those faithful are all included in the Philadelphia church.
3. The church of the Laodiceans is the church of the final generation and Jesus makes it very plain that there is little, if any, hope for these people. Jesus says that this church is made up of wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked people living in an evil and adulteress generation like in Noah's day and Lot's day when there were no Christians.

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4. The gospel has already been preached to the Gentile world and every religious denomination that is claiming to be preaching this gospel to the world, is only giving vain hope to the people; there is no such teaching in God's word. The only call left for this world is for God's people to come out of the Laodicean church quickly. If only one in a city comes out, Christ will be glad to accept that one. Jeremiah 3:14.
5. The 144,000, made up of twelve thousand of each of the twelve tribes of Israel, will be the ones that will vindicate God's name. They depict all the saved people from Adam until now. Also the twelve tribes are the nations mentioned in Revelation 22 that make up the new earth. Their names are written on the twelve gates of the new Jerusalem.
6. The seven trumpets of Revelation 8 will be poured out upon this earth before the second coming of Jesus.
7. The seven seals will be opened at the end of the judgment of Revelation 20.
8. The seven last plagues will be poured out at the battle of the great day of God almighty, which is not Christ's second coming but His third coming.
9. There is by far more prophecy regarding the third coming of Jesus than His second coming.
10. The "last days" mentioned in the Old and New Testaments reaches from Christ's first coming to His third coming. For example, Micah 4:1, 2 is referring to the New Jerusalem and not this old wicked Jerusalem of today. Many other scriptures do the same thing which confuses a great number of people.
11. There is no burning of this world or people at the second coming of Jesus. They lay as dung upon the ground, neither gathered nor buried.

In this book you will not find cunningly devised interpretations of scripture. You will find the true concept of the Bible and Bible only—and its own interpretation of prophecy. Join me in this most unique study.

- Jim Renfro



# The Never Ending Story

The story you are about to read is the greatest story ever told. It is the story of Jesus and His testimony to a people that God the Father has chosen to vindicate His name. This story has both a sad and happy ending. The sad part is that so few of the people that God has called will be chosen to spend eternity with Him and the happy part is that these few will constitute the remnant of this group that will someday stand upon as it were the sea of glass, celebrating the vindication of the name of the Lord our God. There is nothing this world can offer that is important enough to keep me from being at that celebration of the great day of God Almighty. After you have read this story, I hope you can make the same statement.

Over six thousand years of this story has already been enacted, which is recorded in history. The rest is written in a script of the sure word of prophecy which will, in the future, affect every person—both the living and the dead.

It all began when Satan, through selfishness and jealousy, accused God of being a dictator. In Satan's deceitfulness, he turned the hearts of one-third of the angels in heaven against God. Satan's accusations that God's angels could not serve and obey Him, forced God to create man a little lower than the angels. God then sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to this earth to live as a man just like you and me to prove that man, even though created lower than the angels, could live a Christian life and be obedient to all of God's commandments. When Jesus comes the second time, there will be a people living upon this earth without fault before the throne of God. This life of Jesus and His people will prove Satan wrong and God right, and will justify God's dealing with sin and sinners to destroy them from the face of the earth. God allowed Satan to reign for thousands of years and permit all the sorrow, misery and suffering that the human race has

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had to endure, so that the entire universe might see and know what the sin of selfishness and jealousy will do to a world. That is what God has been forced to do in order to vindicate His name and save His universe from the corruption of sin.

Even in Noah's day, God said it repented Him that He had made man and that it grieved Him at His heart. But He had no choice but to continue the human race through Noah's family because there simply was not enough righteous people in those generations to vindicate His name. And the same has been true all down through those thousands of years. Even at the tower of Babel, Satan had so deceived the human race that God had to change the language of the people to stop their evil ways. He also, at the tower, divided the earth into nations. And out of those nations God through Abraham, chose one nation to be a special people that they might exonerate His name from suspicion and guilt before the universe. But many years later God found this nation or people that he had chosen down in Egypt and living in slavery. Exodus 3:7-8 says: "And the Lord said, I have surely seen the affliction of My people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows, And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey...." This act of God was to fulfill His promise to Abraham and was the first step on that long journey through this old world and to the heavenly Canaan.

If His people would have appreciated this effort from their God and would have followed His instructions, His name could have quickly been vindicated and their heavenly home a reality. But you know the story. In spite of all the miracles that the Lord performed there in that wilderness experience, His people turned their backs on their God and continued to be a murmuring, complaining, disobedient people throughout the entire wilderness experience.

When the efforts of God in the wilderness failed, God sent Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel to warn His people of what was going to happen to them if they did not repent and turn back to Him. All down through the years, God did everything He possibly could but to no avail. His

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people continued to defy Him. Finally, He called upon His servant Daniel and again God warned His people in Daniel chapters 7-8 what would happen to them if they did not stop their disobedience.

### ***A Vision of the Last Days and the Great Day of God Almighty***

As we open the book of Daniel to chapter 2, it will become apparent that the visions and prophecies of Daniel are setting forth the things that will occur during the last 3 1/2 years of this earth's history, to the second coming of Jesus and carry us through the judgment of Daniel 7 and Revelation 20 which takes place before the throne of God and finally back to this earth where His kingdom, the new heaven and the new earth, shall be set up as God promised. It is true that the prophecies in the book of Daniel began with the dream of Nebuchadnezzar and the interpretation by Daniel which have been fulfilling ever since. But, these are things that must have taken place to lead up to the real issue before us in the book of Daniel. That issue is the great day of God Almighty, when His name will be vindicated and His universe cleansed of all sin and sinners for the first time in over seven thousand years.

In Daniel 2:28 we read: "But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days." When we read the prophecies of Jeremiah and elsewhere we find that the last days or latter days refer to both the second coming and the third coming of Jesus. The latter days refers to Jerusalem before His second coming and also refers to Jerusalem at His third coming. One is a prophecy of old Jerusalem and the other of new Jerusalem.

For example read Micah 4:1-2: "But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it. And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and He will teach us of His ways, and we will walk in His paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem." Now Folk, this is not talking



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about this old wicked world or wicked Jerusalem of today. This is talking about the new Jerusalem John saw coming down from God out of heaven. To think any of these evil and adulteress nations of today would seek the word of God or walk in His paths is nonsense. Here are a few more verses that set forth these truths. Read them and see if you know of any nation or people today that could possibly fulfill them: Zechariah 8:20-22; Joel 2:32; Joel 3:16-17. There are many more scriptures just like these in Jeremiah and Ezekiel and elsewhere assuring us that God has not forgotten His promise to take His children (spiritual Israel) out of the old wicked world to the land He promised. And that will happen when the great day of God Almighty comes at the third coming of Jesus. There is by far more prophecy in the Bible concerning the third coming of Jesus than His second coming, especially in the books of Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Revelation. If you do not understand this, you will be deeply confused.

So, when Daniel told the king of things that would occur in the latter days, he was carrying his thoughts down through time when all these earthly kingdoms would be destroyed and God's kingdom that would cover this whole earth would be set up. Of course that cannot happen until the third coming of Jesus and the destruction of all sin and sinners. Then the new heaven and earth which is the kingdom God promised to the saints would be set up.

To let the Bible interpret this for us, turn to Daniel 2:44 and read: "And in the days of these kings [kings of Babylon, Media Persia, Greece, Rome, etc.] shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever." To be sure this is referring all the way back to the king of Babylon, notice verse 45: "Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron [Rome], the brass [Greece], the clay [all other kingdoms], the silver [Media Persia], and the gold [Babylon]; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure." All of this is to happen in the days of those kings. However, all of the

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kings mentioned in the book of Daniel are dead, including the kings of Persia, Greece, and Rome; the only one living today connected with these four world empires is Pope John Paul II.

So, it is very obvious that the days of these kings is referring to the end of the thousand year judgment when all these kings will arise in the second resurrection and be living upon this earth. And, according to Revelation 16:13-14 all these kings will be gathered together to the battle of the great day of God Almighty, the battle of Armageddon. To prove this is true, read Daniel 2:35: "Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them." This is referring to the day when God rains fire and brimstone down and destroys them at the end of the judgment mentioned in Revelation 20, and the battle spoken of in Revelation 19. Notice Daniel 2:44: "...but it [God's kingdom] shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever." In Ezekiel 28:18-19 God says to Satan: "...therefore will I bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee....Thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt thou be anymore." Or, as Daniel 2:35 puts it, "...no place was found for them..."

Speaking of the enemies of the Lord, Psalms 37:20 says: "...they shall consume; unto smoke shall they consume away." "Never shalt thou be any more," regarding Satan, has the same meaning as, "no place was found for them," in Daniel 2:35. And the term "consume away" in Psalms 37 has the same meaning as, "These kingdoms shall be consumed," which means they will go into perdition (total destruction). That can only happen at the third coming of Christ which is at the end of the judgment.

### ***The Coming Together of the Ancient of Days (God the Father) and His Son Jesus Christ to usher in the Judgment of Daniel 7 and Revelation 20***

As we read Daniel 7, we have nearly the same picture as in chapter 2. Daniel sees in vision the same four world empires, but in this vision, he sees ten horns come out of the fourth beast (Rome)

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that we recognize from history as the countries which today make up much of Europe. Then coming up among these horns, Daniel sees another horn called the little horn. Again, as we search history, we find that this little horn represents Papal Rome which arose approximately 538 AD and indeed arose among the ten powers that came out of the Roman empire. And, according to Daniel 7:9: "I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days [God the Father] did sit." Did sit in what? In judgment. Notice verse 10: "...thousand thousands ministered unto Him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened." See Revelation 20:11, 12. When does this occur? The answer is in verse 13: "I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of Man [Jesus Christ] came with the clouds of heaven [His second coming], and came to the Ancient of days [God the Father], and they brought Him near before Him." This can only be referring to the judgment of Revelation 20 and to Revelation 11:18. Notice, "And the nations were angry, and Thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged..." The judgment of the dead begins at the second coming of Jesus. Still speaking of the little horn, Daniel 7:11 says, "I beheld then because of the great words which the horn spake: I beheld even till the beast was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the burning flame." This is referring to his body being cast into the lake of fire in Revelation 19. Again, referring to this little horn, Daniel 7:21-22 indicates: "I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them; Until the Ancient of days came [the second coming of Jesus], and judgment was given to the saints of the Most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom." This judgment given to the saints is referring to Revelation 20:4: "And I saw thrones, and they [the saints] sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them." That is so plain we can hardly misunderstand.

In Daniel 7:21, the horn making war with the saints is the same prophecy of Revelation 13:7 which says: "And it was given unto him [Pope John Paul II] to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations." Also the "time and times and dividing of time," of Daniel

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7:25, is exactly the same period of time as the 42 months of Revelation 13:5. Notice: "...and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months." Notice how these two books hold the same prophetic truth. Notice what happens after the judgment sits in Daniel 7:26 and they take away the little horn's dominion. Verse 27: "And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High..." This occurs after the judgment is over. You can see that the prophecy of Daniel 7 brings vindication of God's name, and that is what all these prophecies are about. They are pointing to the greatest day in the history of the universe. According to Revelation 16:14, that day is the "great day of God Almighty."

### ***A Fact You Need to Understand***

We will discuss the little horn of Daniel 8 a little later in our study; but right now, there is a very important point that I want you to understand. The interpretation of the vision of the little horn of Daniel 7 and exactly when this power would arise in our world, is found in Daniel 8:17-25. Gabriel said in Daniel 8:17 (which refers to Daniel's vision of the little horn of chapter 7): "...Understand, O son of man: for at the time of the end shall be the vision." The time of the end is referring to the last generation of time which is the day that you and I are living in. Also, verse 19 tells us, "...I will make thee know what shall be in the last end of the indignation: for at the time appointed the end shall be." Indignation means contempt against the commandments of God. Daniel 11:30 says: "...therefore he shall be grieved, and return, and have indignation against the holy covenant..." which is God's commandments. There has always been indignation against God's law, but this is talking about the last indignation at the time of the end. For an even greater proof as to when this little horn will arise, Daniel 8:23 indicates: "...And in the latter time of their kingdom..." (this is referring to Babylon, Media Persia, Greece, Rome and Papal Rome—we are living in the day of Papal Rome which is in the latter time of their [plural] kingdoms)—notice, "...And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors are come to the full..." That has not happened since Noah's day! But, when the transgressors

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are come to the full, probation closes and "...a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up...and he shall destroy wonderfully...and shall destroy the mighty and the holy people." The transgressors are just about to come to the full in this world, my friend, and the cup of iniquity is running over. The God of heaven is about to declare that probation for this world is ended. It is time for Him to act, for His law has been made void and His truth has been cast into the street. All the efforts being made by the churches to preach the gospel to this evil and adulteress generation, believing they will convert millions to God, is spinning their wheels. No such movement is going to occur.

### *The Truth of the Little Horn and the 2300 Days of Daniel 8*

Now let's consider the little horn of Daniel 8 and the taking away of the 2200 evening and morning sacrifices. I do not know exactly why this prophecy is sandwiched in between the vision of the little horn of Daniel 7 and the interpretation by Gabriel in Daniel 8:17-25. But I can tell you that the same thing occurs in Revelation 14:1-5 concerning the 144,000 saints who are standing on Mount Zion in heaven with Jesus, which, apparently, has nothing to do with the rest of chapter 14. These five verses are talking about the same subject as Revelation 7, and the 144,000 saints. But, as for the prophecy of the little horn of Daniel 8, I can tell you it has already been fulfilled through the reign of Antiochus Epiphanes. For a study of this topic, read the account of Judas Macabees, the man who cleansed the sanctuary after Antiochus had desecrated it for exactly 2200 sacrifices. Also, read the account from the great Jewish historian, Josephus, who wrote about this prophecy only 200 years after King Antiochus fulfilled the prophecy of Daniel 8. Both of these men testify that this prophecy was fulfilled approximately 160 BC. However, there are leaders today who will try to deceive you about this prophecy in order to hold on to the false theory that the sanctuary was cleansed in 1844. Don't let this happen to you! Get this material and study it and you will see what is truth.

In case you don't know, let me inform you that when Jesus was

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on earth, He quoted from the Greek translation by the LXX. In that translation the prophecy is stated to have **2400 evening and morning**. The King James Version indicates **2300 days**. In the older copies of the book of Daniel by the translator of the Vulgate, Jerome gives the number as **2200 evening and morning**. Ask your pastor sometime how he determines which of these three is the right one.

### ***Daniel's Concern***

I want to go back to Daniel 8 and show you that Daniel was very concerned about the vision in verses 9-14 that speaks of the daily sacrifice being taken away for 2300 evening and morning, or 2200 evening and morning, as recorded in certain manuscripts of Daniel's writings, as quoted above. Daniel did not understand this vision. It troubled him because at that very time the 70 year prophecy of Jeremiah concerning the captivity of Daniel's people was about to end. Daniel feared this 2200 evening and morning sacrifice prophecy would be added to the seventy years. That is the reason Daniel mentioned the 70 years in chapter 9.

To get the full picture of Daniel's problem, let's read Daniel 8:26, 27. Gabriel said to Daniel: "And the vision of the evening and the morning which was told is true: wherefore shut thou up the vision; for it shall be for many days." I do not know why Gabriel did not explain to Daniel the meaning or time frame of this vision, but verse 27 makes it plain that Daniel still did not understand. Notice verse 27: "And I Daniel fainted, and was sick certain days...and I was astonished at the vision, but none understood it." I can understand why Daniel was disturbed by this vision. Even though he did not understand it, it was only natural he would think it was connected with the 70 year prophecy of Daniel 9:2. Notice, "...I Daniel understood by books the number of years, whereof the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah the prophet, that he would accomplish seventy years in the desolation of Jerusalem." I know I would come to the same conclusion Daniel did—that the vision of Daniel 8 and the daily sacrifice being taken away for 2200 sacrifices would add many more years to the 70 years.

Daniel 9:3 shows without question how Daniel felt about the



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situation: "And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes." You can see that Daniel immediately began to plead with God to do something about this problem. And, in verse 5, he admits that his people are at fault. "We have sinned and have committed iniquity, and have done wickedly, and have rebelled, even by departing from Thy precepts and from Thy judgments." Read Daniel 9:2-19. You will see the sincerity of Daniel's prayer and agree that it definitely concerns the holy city, Jerusalem, and the sanctuary services. Truly the vision of Daniel 8:9-14 did concern Jerusalem and the daily sacrifice services of the sanctuary, but it was not to be fulfilled in Daniel's day. Evidently, Daniel did not consider the fact that the angel said in Daniel 8:26: "...shut thou up the vision; for it shall be for many days." The prophecy of the 70 years would end on time, but in the future the same thing would happen again if Daniel's people did not stop their sinning. You will find in Daniel 9:20 that Gabriel appeared again to Daniel to help Daniel understand the truth of the matter.

### ***Gabriel Appears to the Prophet***

Notice Daniel 9:20-23: "And whiles I was speaking, and praying...even the man Gabriel...being caused to fly swiftly, touched me...and said, O' Daniel, I am now come forth to give thee skill and understanding...I am come to shew thee; for thou art greatly beloved: therefore understand the matter, and consider the vision." If you will read Daniel 7:28, you will find that the vision of chapter 7 is called the "matter." Gabriel told Daniel to "understand the matter." Also, if you will read Daniel 8:27, you will see that Daniel refers to the vision of chapter 8 as the "vision" and Gabriel tells Daniel to "consider the vision." It is obvious Gabriel is telling Daniel that these are two separate prophecies that are to affect His people in the future unless his people change their ways. Then Gabriel revealed to Daniel exactly what his people must do to stop these prophecies from being fulfilled. Notice Daniel 9:24: "Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish [stop] the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness [accept Jesus as the Messiah] and seal up

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[stop] the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.”

Let me discuss another subject with you quickly. As you can clearly see, the 70 weeks or 490 years was given for the sole purpose of stopping the prophecies of Daniel 7 and 8. This could have been accomplished if God's people would have turned from their evil ways and accepted Jesus Christ as their leader. There is not now, never was and never will be any purpose, reason, or need to add more years to these 490 years. Doing so destroys the truth of this prophecy. Unfortunately there are some people who have done, and are still trying to do, just that, but it was not so from the beginning and not true now.

If Daniel's people would have followed these instructions, the prophecy of Daniel 7 and the little horn which represents Pope John Paul II would not be fulfilling in our day. The Jewish people would have remained God's chosen people; they would have carried the gospel to the world; Jesus would have already come; God's name would have been vindicated and the new heaven and new earth would be a reality. And, all the lost people of the earth, which is nearly all who are living today and have lived for the last two thousand years, would not have such a bleak future of facing eternity without God. Sadly, it did not happen the way God would have liked and now here we are to face the very things God warned His people would happen if they refused to obey Him. In reality, the Jewish people and the Jewish nation in the day of Jesus are responsible for all the evils of the past 2000 years, for none of these things would have come upon mankind if they would have obeyed their God. Not that all people will pay for their own sins, but it is without question that the leadership and those chosen of God to lead the people are more responsible than the laymen. According to God's word, the blood of the people will fall upon false pastors and prophets who deceive them. This rejection of Jesus by the Jewish nation brought forth the necessity for Jesus to give His discourse to His disciples on the Mount of Olives. We will discuss this later in our study.

### ***Who's to Blame?***

Next, we want to consider Daniel chapters 10, 11 and 12. But,

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before we do, let's take a moment to consider in greater detail what could have happened if God's people would have stopped their sinful ways. First, the prophecies of Daniel 7 and 8 would have been sealed up for all eternity (see last part of Daniel 9:24). Next, chapters 10, 11 and 12 would not be fulfilling in our day because God's name would have been vindicated and His universe cleansed of all sinners. Just think of all the billions of lost souls due to the disobedience of our forefathers, which were once God's chosen people! What a shame!

Now, think of something else with me. Daniel 7, 8 and 9 were given to show what is going to happen to God's people in the latter days—that's your day and my day, the last generation of time. God gave a solution to the problems in Daniel 9:24 which was simply for His people to stop sinning. But then, of course, He had to wait for Jesus to come and be rejected before He would give the command for Daniel 10, 11 and 12 to be fulfilled. The rejection by God's people of Jesus Christ opened the door for these three chapters to be understood and fulfilled in this last generation of time. In other words, God is saying in Daniel 10-12, I gave you an opportunity to repent and you refused, now here is the rest of what is to happen to you Jews, and to the rest of the world. Daniel 10:1 says: "...a thing was revealed unto Daniel...and the thing was true, but the time appointed was long: and He understood the thing, and had understanding of the vision." This is without question a vision shown to Daniel about the future of Daniel's people that would take place if his people refused this offer from God to repent. In the next few verses we read how Daniel received this vision, and how it caused him to lose his strength. He said his comeliness was turned into corruption (verse 8). There's no doubt that Daniel was given a picture of our day—the last generation of time, an evil and adulteress generation. To see a picture of our day compared to Daniel's day would cause any child of God to faint, wouldn't it?

Notice in verse 14 the angel Gabriel said, "Now I am come to make thee understand what shall befall thy people in the latter days [last generation]." And, by the way folks, it will also carry over to the third coming of Jesus and the punishment of those Jewish people

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who rejected Jesus at His first coming and those who reject Him in our day. Then Gabriel makes the statement that the vision is for many days. Truly there have been many days since Daniel's vision until 1996, right? I want you to realize that Jesus not only had the discourse with His disciples on the Mount of Olives, and His message to John on the Isle of Patmos, but He was there when these visions were given to Daniel. In Daniel 10:21, Gabriel says, "But I will shew thee that which is noted in the scripture of truth: and there is none that holdeth with me in these things, but Michael your prince [Jesus Christ]." We can see Jesus very plainly as the central figure in all these prophecies. Revelation 1:1 indicates that God gave to Jesus and Jesus gave to the angel and the angel gave these prophecies to Daniel and John to write in these books for you and me that we might have the knowledge of God the Father and Jesus His son, more fully, which means it is very important we understand them truthfully.

### ***Daniel 11 and the Close of Probation***

As we study Daniel 11, we find Gabriel telling Daniel in verse 2, "And now will I show thee the truth." This chapter is talking repeatedly about the king of the south and the king of the north. It is obvious that this cannot refer to just two men, as two men or kings could not live to fulfill all these years. So, this king of the south and north denote what Jesus says in Matthew 24:6: "And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of war: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet." The king of the south and the king of the north depicts nation rising against nation, kingdom against kingdom, wars and rumors of wars even down to our day. There has always been pestilence and earthquakes but the end has not yet come. However, when we get to Daniel 11:31, we have come to the end of probation for the entire world. Notice what Daniel was told about this hour: "And arms shall stand on his part..." We will learn from Revelation 13 and Matthew 24:15 that this is referring to the United States of America which is the military power of Revelation 13. Notice again that, "...arms shall stand on his part, and they shall pollute the sanctuary of strength, and shall take away the daily sacrifice, and they shall place the abomination that maketh

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desolate.” The taking away of the daily sacrifice is talking about Daniel 8:23: “...when the transgressors are come to the full...” — when the cup of iniquity is running over and there is no one left on this earth to accept the sacrifice Jesus is offering from the sanctuary in heaven. This will cause the daily offering of the sacrifice in heaven to be taken away, probation will close and the abomination will be set up which will bring destruction upon destruction on the earth during the last three and a half years of the time of trouble. You may not realize it, but this prophecy is just about to be fulfilled. Justice has been turned around backward and the truth of God has been cast into the street. Hosea 4:1 tells us, “...the Lord hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land.” Although that text was talking about the time period back then, it most assuredly is also talking about now—today. When the transgressors are come to the full, the cup of iniquity will also be full. And then will come those tribulation days such as never were since the world began.

To show you that this is talking about the statement I just made, turn to Matthew 24:15 and notice what Jesus said about Daniel 11:31. “When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet [in Daniel 11:31] stand in the holy place...” The holy place is the sanctuary in heaven and is what Daniel 11:31 calls the sanctuary of strength. When the transgressors have come to the full, it will affect the sanctuary in Heaven. How? It will cause the daily sacrifice that Jesus has been offering to be taken away and in this sense pollute the sanctuary of strength. So there is only one verse in the book of Daniel that Jesus could have been referring to and that is Daniel 11:31. It is the only text that mentions the setting up of the abomination in connection with the sanctuary of strength or holy place. When Daniel asks the question in Daniel 12:8, “...what shall be the end of these things?” Gabriel in verse 11 answers: “And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days.” So, you can see that all four things mentioned in Daniel 11:31 are absolute. Notice: (1) “And arms shall stand on his part;” (2) “and they shall pollute the sanctuary [Holy

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Place] of strength;" (3) "and shall take away the daily sacrifice;" (4) "and they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate [destroys]."

### ***The Powers of Revelation 13 and Daniel 11:31 Are the Same***

Let's consider this verse for a moment in light of what we will find in the book of Revelation. In Revelation 13 there are four powers mentioned. In verse 3, it mentions the beast which represents the papacy or Pope John Paul II. Verse 4 mentions the dragon which is Satan. Verse 11 mentions the beast with two horns like a lamb, which represents the United States. Verse 15 mentions the image beast, which represents false Protestantism.

Now, let's think on these things. Three of these powers are spiritual powers, and there is a call to worship all three. The beast of verse 3 is the papacy. Verse 8 says all that dwell upon earth whose names are not written in the book of life shall worship him. This will be totally fulfilled after probation closes and during the last three and a half years of this earth's history. Verse 4 says: "And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast." And verse 15 indicates that "...as many as would not worship the image [false Protestantism] of the beast should be killed." Let me at this time draw your attention to the fact that you cannot study the book of Daniel without the help of Revelation and you cannot study Revelation without the help of the book of Daniel. Likewise, you cannot study Christ's discourse with His disciples on the Mount of Olives without the book of Daniel and the book of Revelation.

Let's have another look at Daniel 11:31. Remember that Jesus, in Matthew 24:15, testified that this prophecy would be fulfilled and indicated that when it happens there will be a time of tribulation such as was not since the world began, (verse 21). Daniel 11:31 says, "...arms shall stand on his part." Remember that the beast with lamb like horns in Revelation 13:11 is the only power in Revelation 13 that the world has not been called upon to worship. Why? Because he is a military power and therefore does not call for worship. His role in prophecy is to call upon the world to worship the papacy or pope and to give life unto the image of the beast (false Protestantism) that he



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might speak to cause people to worship the image. So, the arms bearer in Daniel 11:31 is a military power. Notice who his power helps. The second sentence of Daniel 11:31 says, "...and they shall pollute the sanctuary of strength..." Who are *they*? *They* refers to the three spiritual powers of Revelation 13 that we just mentioned—the dragon, the beast and false prophets. This is talking about these three spiritual powers corrupting the peoples of the world with their false, evil, and deceitful teachings of God's prophecy and causing the people to trample upon the law of God in such a disgraceful and degrading way.

Look at Daniel 11:30. This is talking about the United States and something that is going to grieve him just before probation closes. Verse 30 says: "...he shall be grieved, and return, and have indignation [that's contempt] against the holy covenant [the law of God]: so shall he do; he shall even return, and have intelligence with them that forsake the holy covenant." Who is forsaking God's commandments? It is the false religious organizations of this world. Folk, I know of no other prophecies to be fulfilled before Daniel 11:31 and the close of probation except the transgressors coming to the full, or the cup of iniquity being filled to the brim. Notice what happens after probation closes and Daniel 11:31 is fulfilled. According to verse 32, the wicked who have contempt against God's law will be, "corrupt by flatteries." I like the next part about God's people and I want to be one of them. "...But the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits [heroic acts]." Yes, we are going to have to know our God personally to be strong during a time like this. I like the next sentence also: "And they that understand among the people shall instruct many." This could mean two things: (1) There may be a few of God's saved children that will need a little help to know what to do; and (2) We will know everything we need to know to confront the enemy. But, even with all of this in our favor, the next sentence tells us that some of God's people will suffer death at the hands of our enemy. Notice, "...yet they [God's people] shall fall by the sword, and by flame, by captivity, and by spoil, many days." How many days according to Jesus in Matthew 24:22? It will be 1260 days.

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## *Satan as King*

Daniel 11:36 tells us that Satan is king, and he will be king of this world at that time. That is why he "shall do according to his will; he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation [of verse 32] be accomplished..." All of these things will be done through his agents—the papacy, the spiritualists, and the false prophets. Notice that he will cause them to rule over many. Verse 40 brings us to the last act in the drama. Notice: "And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him: and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships..." Without a question this is a physical battle by the nations of the earth. It is described in Jeremiah 4 as a war that will bring destruction upon destruction. He says our homes will be destroyed in a moment of time and that all the cities will be broken down in that day. Surely only the hydrogen or atomic bombs could cause so much destruction in so short a time. According to Jeremiah 4, Jesus will appear in the clouds of heaven during this fierce battle. Notice Jeremiah 4:26: "...all the cities were broken down at the presence of the Lord, and by His fierce anger." We are told in more than one place in the Bible that this great time of trouble is going to be centered around Jerusalem in the Middle East. Daniel 11:45 clearly says: "And he [the devil through his evil agents, no doubt] "shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain [that is in Jerusalem, see Daniel 9:16]; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him."

## *The Second Coming of Jesus*

Daniel 12:1 tells us what will occur during this great time of trouble such as the nations have never experienced: "And at that time shall Michael [Jesus] stand up..." This is referring to the second coming of Jesus. We can know this event is His second coming because of two things. First, this is the final battle between the nations of the world and Jeremiah says Jesus is going to come during that battle. Second, Daniel 12:1-2 says, "...at that time thy people shall

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be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.” Also, the resurrection will take place at that time. Notice: “And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.” Notice that it says many but not all. There are two ways that we can look at this. Not all will be raised, only the ones whose names are written in the book of life. There may be resurrected, according to Revelation 1:7, some of those who crucified Him. They may be raised for a special purpose. Daniel 12:3 assures us that, “...they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.”

### ***Daniel's Last Vision***

Daniel had received all these dreams and visions and he was anxious to know when these things would take place. However, he was told to, “...shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end,” (Daniel 12:4). In Daniel's last vision (Daniel 12:7) he says, that he saw two men, one on one side of a river and one on the other, and one man said to the other, “How long shall it be to the end of these wonders?” The answer to this question is given in the last part of verse 7: “...when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished.” Note: the time of the end constitutes the final generation of which we are now living and it is nearing its end. That's why we can now understand this book for we are at the time of the end and it is opened to our understanding.

We know from the prophecy of Daniel 8:23-25 that the fierce king (the pope) will persecute God's people. We also know that Revelation 13 says that the image beast will bring death to God's people. We are told in Daniel 11:33 that God's people will fall by the sword, flame, captivity, and spoil many days. So, there is no question but that Satan, through his agencies, will scatter the power of the Holy people.

But, how long will this death decree and persecution last? Well, Daniel wanted to know about these things and in verse 8 he asked the question. He said, “I heard...” He heard that it would be for a time,

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times, and half time, and that God's people would be scattered and killed. But he says, "...I understood not: then said I, O my Lord, what shall be the end of these things?" Verse 11 answers his question: "And from the time that the daily sacrifice [of Daniel 11:31] shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days." From the time that the transgressors have come to the full, in Daniel 8:23, which causes the sacrifice of Jesus to be taken away, until His second coming, will be 1290 days. That is what Daniel was told, but Jesus changed these days and made them less than 1290.

### *Taking Another Look Another Way*

You will remember that we discussed the prophecy of Matthew 24, where Jesus said in verse 14, "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." Immediately after this verse He says in verse 15, "When ye therefore,"—(this word *therefore* means *for this reason* that the gospel has been preached to all the world)—"When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whosoever readeth, let him understand)." Understand that the holy place is the sanctuary of strength which is in heaven Now there is only one verse in the book of Daniel that speaks of the abomination of desolation in connection with the sanctuary, and that is Daniel 11:31, and that is the scripture Jesus was referring to in Matthew 24:15. To prove this verse is the one He was referring to, notice Daniel asked in Daniel 12:8: "...what shall be the end of these things?" Verse 11 refers to Daniel 11:31 when it says, "And from the time that the daily sacrifice [the sacrifice that Jesus has been offering the world for 2000 years] shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days." Let's read Daniel 11:31 again. We will discover that all three of these things are mentioned in this verse and there is not another verse in the book of Daniel that does that. Notice Daniel 11:31: "...they shall pollute the sanctuary of strength..." Jesus mentions the holy place (sanctuary) in Matthew 24:15. Next, and they "...shall take away the daily sacrifice..." and

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Gabriel mentions that in Daniel 12:11. Finally, it says: "...and they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate." Both Jesus and Gabriel mention this—Jesus in Matthew 24:15 and Gabriel in Daniel 12:11. Now, we know for sure this verse is the verse Jesus was talking about in Matthew 24:15. He says that when this verse is fulfilled, those people in and around Judea or Jerusalem are to flee to the mountains. Why? Well, Matthew 24:21 says: "For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be." Continuing in verse 22 He says: "And except those days..." (He can only be talking about the 1290 days in Daniel 12)—"...except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved..." This of course is referring to the close of probation and the death decree placed upon His people which we read about in Daniel 8:23-25 and Revelation 13:7, 15. To be sure, this is concerning His saints. Read the rest of verse 22, "...but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened." How much would they be shortened? Well, according to Revelation 11:2-3, it will be 30 days—from 1290 days to 1260 days. And by the way, He calls them days, not years. Whether we are ready to meet Jesus or whether we are not, the fulfillment of this one little verse of Daniel 12:11 stands between all of us and eternity. To think that the fulfillment of this one verse will close probation's door upon this old world is indeed an awesome thought. That is why I have put so much emphasis upon this prophecy. Let me quote from Daniel 12:10, the "wicked shall do wickedly and none of the wicked shall understand but the wise shall understand." Let me encourage you to seek our heavenly Father for wisdom to understand the truths that will make us wise unto salvation.

### *Three Books—One Message*

As was brought to your attention earlier, we have used some of Christ's discourse with His disciples on the Mount of Olives, and we have also used the prophecies of the book of Revelation. Why? Because all three of these messages (the book of Daniel, the discourse on the Mount of Olives and the messages in the book of Revelation) are a continuing prophecy.

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Chapters 7 and 8 in the book of Daniel were given first as a warning to God's people of what was going to happen to them in the last days. Then in Daniel 9:24 God gave His people an opportunity to stop these prophecies from ever being fulfilled. He gave them 490 years to stop their transgression, stop their sinning and accept Jesus as their Messiah at the end of this 490 years. You know what happened, don't you? When Jesus came to this earth they not only rejected Him but they crucified Him. John 19:15 says: "But they cried out, Away with Him, away with Him, crucify Him. Pilate saith unto them, Shall I crucify your King? The chief priests answered, We have no king but Caesar."

It was plain at this time that they had refused God's offer to stop the prophecies of Daniel 7-8; therefore, this brought about the fact that Jesus must give the prophecy for the last days or for the next two thousand years, which is a continuation of the book of Daniel's message.

### ***Jesus Speaks Boldly***

Just a short time before they would crucify Him, Jesus went down to the temple and there He preached the most scathing condemning sermon ever spoken, and He preached it to those so called great leaders of the Jewish nation. You can read it for yourself in Matthew 23. Here is a sample of what He said in His sermon. Verse 15: "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves." I have been fairly critical of the leadership of today, but I don't think I have been quite that strong, yet!

If Jesus was living on earth today, I am sure He would speak the same words to the leadership of His people because the leadership of today is in the same situation as the Jewish nation was in their day.

Listen to what I believe He would say to the leadership of today. Matthew 23:38: "Behold, your house is left unto you desolate." God's people should contemplate these words very carefully, knowing the times we are living in, and separate themselves from any questionable situation as you have found and will find in this study.



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When Jesus finished this sermon, He walked out of that temple and up to the Mount of Olives and sat down with His disciples, Peter, James, John and Andrew and gave them the prophecies that would take place during the next two thousand years as recorded by Matthew, Mark and Luke. After His crucifixion, He ascended back to His father in heaven and approximately 70 years later sent the message to John on the Isle of Patmos as recorded in the book of Revelation which is a continuation of His message to His disciples on the Mount of Olives.

### ***Bringing It All together as Only Jesus Could Do***

Jesus was crucified shortly after speaking to His disciples; but 70 years later, He sent another message to John on the Isle of Patmos and connected it with His discourse on the Mount of Olives.

I want to show you how Jesus connected the message on the Mount of Olives to the book of Revelation, and how both deal with the final generation of time. Of all the studies in this book of Revelation, chapters 13 and 14 are the only two chapters that go further back than the last 3 1/2 of this earth's history. The rest of the book of Revelation is speaking of the last 3 1/2 years of this earth's history and the judgment of Revelation 20 and the third coming of Jesus and the setting up of God's kingdom on this earth. In His discourse on the Mount of Olives, recorded in Matthew 24 beginning with verse 15, Jesus speaks of these final 3 1/2 years of this earth's history, and foretells what is to happen during that period of time. In verse 33 He says, "So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the door." But in the same message to His disciples on the Mount of Olives as recorded in the book of Luke, He talks about the days just prior to the close of probation. In Luke 21, Jesus speaks of things that would occur in the last generation of time and then He makes this remark in verse 28: "And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh." In verse 32 He hastens to add, "Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass away, till all be fulfilled." You should notice, however, that there is a difference in these two statements. In Matthew 24:33, He says, "...it is near, even at the door." In Luke 21:28 He says, "...your redemption draweth nigh."

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There is a difference between being at "the door" and "nigh" the door. One statement is talking about after probation closes (Matthew 24) and the other before probation closes (Luke 21).

### ***The Prophecy of Jesus Regarding Coming Events***

Notice the things Jesus was referring to that would happen as Luke 21:24 was fulfilled: "...and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, [nations] until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled." From the time that Jerusalem was destroyed in AD 70 until 1967, Jerusalem was controlled by peoples or Gentile nations other than Jewish. But in 1967, during the six day war, Israel took control of old Jerusalem for the first time in nearly 2000 years. And, in that year, the time of the Gentile nation's control of Jerusalem ended. This two thousand years represented the time Jesus allotted to the Gentiles to hear the gospel and be saved if they wanted to. This was the same offer given to the Jewish nation in Daniel 9. Four hundred ninety years to stop their, "transgressions," "make reconciliation for iniquity," and "bring in everlasting righteousness," [accept Jesus as Messiah]. These things constituted the gospel being preached to both the Jewish nation before Jesus came the first time, and the gospel being preached to the Gentiles before His second coming. Then, in Luke 21:25-26, he gives other signs for the final generation: "...signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon earth distress of nations, with perplexity;"—man on the moon in 1960's, distress of nations especially during the Gulf War, and perplexities which means things are so bad that man cannot control the problems facing our world. I think you surely will agree that this is referring to the hour we are living in.

In Matthew 24, Jesus speaks of wars, famines, pestilences, earthquakes and then tells us that these things do not constitute the end of the world but only the beginning of sorrow. See Matthew 24:6, 8. But in verse 14 He says, "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." So, by 1967 the gospel had gone to all nations giving all an opportunity to be saved if they choose to do so. But, the end has not come yet, the time of trouble during the 1260

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days has not begun yet. Do you know why? Because the gospel has not been completely finished yet. It has been preached to all nations as foretold by Jesus in Luke 21:24, but the gospel message of Revelation 18:4 for God's people in the final generation of time is not quite finished. When the transgressors have come to the full (see Daniel 8:23) and there is not even one of God's people any longer interested in the truth, the end will surely come.

Dear Friend, don't be deceived. The fulfillment of this prophecy is much closer than we may think. The claim of millions of Christians in this world and millions more to be saved in a final gospel message is just not true. The Bible does not teach such a thing anywhere. It does teach that the transgressors have just about come to the full and when that happens the cup of iniquity will be full and probation for this entire world will close.

### ***The Connection of the Two Messages: One on the Mount of Olives, the other on the Isle of Patmos***

Now, to connect this message from the Mount of Olives with the book of Revelation, we must put three scriptures together. If Luke 21:24 constitutes the finishing of the gospel to the Gentiles, and Matthew 24:14 represents the finishing of the gospel to the same nations, then Revelation 14:6-7 is speaking of the same gospel when it says, "And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come..." The fact is that Revelation refers to only one judgment and that is the judgment of Revelation 20. It tells us without a doubt that we are at the end of time for the hour of God's judgment is come. It is ready to take place. This without a question of a doubt connects the message of Jesus on the Mount of Olives with His message to John on the Isle of Patmos in Revelation 14.

### ***In 1980 Babylon Fell***

Let me bring a very important thought to your mind. Just before Jesus was crucified, He made a statement in Matthew 23:38 to the

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Jewish nation. He said, "Behold, your house is left unto you desolate." That was in 31 AD but the gospel did not go to the Gentiles until 34 AD. So God left the door open for the Jewish nation until 34 AD. As you know, there were many devout Jews converted at Pentecost, and the same has happened to this evil and adulteress generation. The door began to close on the Gentile nations in 1967. In 1980 when the capital was moved from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem and Jerusalem became the capital of Israel, the second angel of Revelation 14 declared that, "Babylon is fallen." Revelation 18:2 gives the real picture of our times. Notice, "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird." Babylon represents the false religions of our world today, and whether you like it or not, this is talking about your organized religious denomination. Another fact is that since 1980, the religious people of the world have been worshipping the beast of Revelation 13 and his image and have been receiving his mark. Revelation 14:10 indicates that the wrath of God without mercy will be poured upon such a people. When the religious organizations fell in 1980, they became the habitation of devils, the hold of every foul spirit and the cage of every unclean and hateful bird. (See Revelation 18:1-3). Whoever followed or compromised with these powers after that time, has been receiving their mark. So don't allow the "powers to be" deceive you into believing the mark of the beast is still future. It is here now.

### ***Happenings After the 1980 Fall***

In order to find out what Jesus said would happen after Babylon had fallen and to show from history what has happened, we turn to Revelation 13. Remember Jesus said that when you see these things happen, then look up for it is "nigh" at hand. Revelation 13:1, 2 introduce us to the old pagan Roman empire which today is called Papal Rome. Verse 3 says: "And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast." This is not speaking of an organization or denomination but just a leader of such. A head represents a man who leads an organization; in this case it is speaking of Pope John Paul II,

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the head of the Roman Catholic Church. I want you to read Revelation 13:4 with me; then we will discuss this man and his life as pope of Rome for the past 18 years. "And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?" Folks, I say never has a man lived on the face of this earth, and never could live in a million years, that would fit this prophecy as perfectly as Pope John Paul II does. And, according to Jesus, this event would have to happen in the same generation that the Gentiles lost control of Jerusalem. It would have to happen in the same generation that the signs occurred—like a man on the moon and distress of nations; it would have to happen in the same generation that Jesus described as evil and adulteress, like it was in Noah's day when there were no Christians and in Lot's day when homosexuality was so rampant. Let's see when ~~this deadly~~ wound occurred. Pope John Paul II became pope in 1978. (In 1980, as we have learned, Babylon fell) In 1981, Pope John Paul II was shot by a professional gunman. It appeared he would die at first, but even Fred Barnes in *Reader's Digest* indicated, "he was miraculously healed." The verse says, "all the world wondered after him." There has never been a man alive on earth that has been wondered after or praised like Pope John Paul II since his recovery. The reason for his power to control nations and peoples is because "the dragon" gives power to him. Notice Revelation 13:4: "And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?" We know that Gorbachev, the leader of mighty communist Russia, could not make war with him, causing the European nations and Russia to fall. This prophecy of Revelation 13:3-4 happened exactly on time as Jesus prophesied and every detail was perfectly fulfilled. The next event is prophesied in Revelation 13:11-12: "And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and spake as a dragon." As we study history, we find that this beast is none other than the United States of America. Notice what it does in verse 12: "And he...causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed." That's Pope John Paul II.

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For the beginning of the fulfillment of this prophecy, we go back to 1979 when Pope John Paul II visited America for the first time. He was welcomed by the President of the United States, Jimmy Carter, with these words: "I welcome you to the White House, the symbolic home of all people. On behalf of every American of every faith, I also welcome you into our nation's heart. God bless you for coming to our country. We are proud to have you here." (R.N.S., October 8, 1979). After more than 200 years of the United States not daring to praise the pope of Rome, why the sudden change? In this generation that Jesus speaks so prominently of and says there would be a power that would call upon the world to give praise to this man—Why now? The reason is obvious. Prophecy fulfillment. Ronald Reagan with the help of the so-called great Christian evangelist Billy Graham, appointed an ambassador to Rome, and again welcomed the pope to America in Alaska, with the US flag on one end of the podium and the Vatican flag on the other. George Bush called him his Holy Father; a Protestant president calling this man his spiritual father! What a joke! This is a direct fulfillment of Revelation 13:11-12.

Now, let's look at another fulfillment of prophecy in recent months. The Gulf War followed all of these events of Revelation 13 that we have discussed and so does Revelation 13:13. "And he [USA] doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven in the sight of men..." For five months the whole world waited to see what would happen in the Persian Gulf. When it began, billions of people were watching as the United States rained bombs of fire down upon Iraq. Human eyes had never seen such a sight, and it happened in front of the whole world—"in the sight of men"—billions of them. This is another direct fulfillment of prophecy in our generation!

### ***What Is Next?***

So what is next in this 13th chapter? Verses 5-8 will be fulfilled when probation closes. Notice verse 5: "And there was given unto him [John Paul II] a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months." That is the 1260 days we have talked much about. These 42 months will begin as probation closes. Verse 7 says: "And it was given unto



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him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them..." And verse 8 indicates: "And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world." This all occurs after probation for the entire world closes. Also, verses 14-17 which concern the image beast or false Protestantism will take place after probation closes and during the last 3 1/2 years of this earth's history. These verses tell us that during this time, God's people will be persecuted by false Protestantism and some will be killed, (see verse 15). Also, verse 17 says that unless we worship or have received the mark of the beast, we will not be able to buy or sell. God forbid, but if we end up in this class of people with the mark, Revelation 14:10 says, "The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of His indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb."

### ***The Identity of God's People***

Revelation 14:12 gives us the identity of God's people, who have not worshipped this man. It says, "...here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus." In verse 13, He encourages His people for the trials that they will face after the close of probation. Notice: "And I heard a voice from heaven, saying...Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth...they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them." This is what Revelation 12:11 is talking about when it says, "...and they loved not their lives unto the death." The remainder of chapter 14, sets forth the second coming of Jesus. Verse 14 says: "And I looked, and behold a white cloud..."—Jesus coming to receive His saints in Revelation 14:17-20. The reaping of the harvest and so much blood shed is depictive of the physical battle of Daniel 11:40, Revelation 9:16 and the vision of Jeremiah 4 when destruction upon destruction is cried. So there are some very trying times just ahead not only for the lost world but also for God's people. The next statement is something for you to think about. God says, "Come out of her My people." Ask yourself, Where is God's Sabbath believing

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people located? Find out then make your decision quickly to come out before it is too late. Note the white cloud mentioned above always depicts the second coming of Jesus and the white horse always depicts His third coming.

### ***An Introduction to the Book of Revelation***

Note: The subjects in the book of Revelation are not in chronological order as presented in the Bible, but in this study I have put them in the order they will occur. Also note, Revelation 13 and 14 have already been discussed because they are the only chapters that are fulfilled before probation closes and even some parts of these chapters are not yet fulfilled as mentioned above.

God does not make truth complicated, but He does hide the truth in such a way that only those who love the truth of God and search for it through prayer and study as for a hidden treasure will find it. And so the following studies are not complicated and can be easily understood if you will, with a prayerful heart, seek the things God wants very much to show you. In Revelation 1:1, 2 we read: "The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto Him, to shew unto His servants things which must shortly come to pass; and He sent and signified it by His angel unto His servant John: Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that He saw." Notice that verse 2 reveals that this book contains the "word of God" and the "testimony of Jesus Christ." In verse 3 we are promised a blessing if we read, study, hear and keep the words of this prophecy and all things that are written within this book. Why? "For the time is at hand." Friend, the time was not at hand in AD 90 when this prophecy was given to John but it is at hand in this final generation of time and that is why we can now understand the prophecies of this book. In verse 12 John sees seven golden candlesticks and in the midst of these candlesticks he sees Jesus Christ. Verse 16 reveals that Jesus has seven stars in His hand. Verse 20 says these candlesticks represent seven churches and the seven stars represent the angels of the seven churches. Revelation 2, 3 identify these seven churches and their condition as Jesus looks upon each one.

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### ***The Seven Churches and What They Mean For You and Me***

As we consider these churches, I want to draw your attention to two comments that are directed at each church. The first says, "I know thy works." No matter what the church or people may claim, He tells us that He knows what is going on, and then He warns and admonishes each church or group of people with these words, "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches." Take a few moments and consider your spiritual condition by listening to what He is saying to you through His message to the churches. Because, even though He speaks individually to each church, His words apply to one and all. For instance, to the first church He says, "...thou hast left thy first love." Then He hastens to declare, "...repent, and do the first works; or else I will...remove thy candlestick out of his place..." This warning applies to all seven churches or people in all times. Speaking of the fourth church in Thyatira He says, "I know thy works." Then He lists some things that are pleasing to Him and indicates "...I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols." After this, He warns of what will happen to those who believe this false prophetess. Verses 22-23 say, "...I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds. And I will kill her children with death; and all [seven] the churches shall know that I am He which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works." This is speaking to all seven churches and warning them against having any false prophets among them. And if they have a false prophet they had better repent and remove him or her else they will suffer great tribulation. He is talking to His people who claim to be keeping the commandments of God and those who recognize the Sabbath as a sign between them and their God. Of all the seven churches, the one called Philadelphia is the only one Jesus seems to be fully satisfied with. All others have problems that they must rid themselves of, and there is little indication they will do so. The Philadelphia church is depictive of God's faithful

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ones of all these churches during the past 2000 years. He promises to make those who say they are Jews and are not come and worship before the feet of His saints. He promises to keep His saints from the hour of temptation which shall come upon all the world. He also promises to write upon these faithful ones the name of our God and promises that we will be a part of the New Jerusalem which comes down from God out of heaven, if we hold fast to the truth and let no man take our crown. This is where I want my Lord to find me when He comes.

I want to comment on one more of these churches, Laodicea. This last people or seventh church is without question in a very apostate condition. They are described as being partly right and partly wrong, which according to Jesus Himself is worse than being all wrong. He makes it very plain that if this condition does not change, He will deny it a place in His kingdom. He further says this people are wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked. This seventh church is, without question, the church of the last generation of time. Jesus Himself calls it an adulteress and evil generation, just like in the days of Noah and Sodom and Gomorrah when there were no Christian people. Unlike most of the other churches, Jesus never comments on any of the people of Laodicea being faithful. His comments insinuate that there are very few, if any faithful, and that all are lukewarm, that they are a proud hearted people who think they are rich and have plenty and need no more truth.

Ask yourself, Why does Jesus speak of this final people as such? Ask yourself, As a part of this seventh or final church, do I have a Jezebel or false prophetess teaching me? Do I follow the teaching of some prophet or preacher who holds the doctrine of Balaam or Baal? (See Revelation 2:14.) Am I following those who say they are apostles and are not? Am I seeking truth by searching God's word or am I just taking someone else's word for what is truth? Am I lukewarm or am I on fire for the truth of God? Friend, these are questions we need to ask ourselves in all sincerity. Yes, He says, "I stand at the door, and knock," but He never says anyone will answer. He says, "If any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to Him." The

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condition He places this church in and this time of history which is so evil, makes it obvious not very many will hear that knock, and fewer still will answer it. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches. Look into the mirror of these seven messages and see if you can see something in your spiritual life that needs to be eliminated; then act upon it quickly, before your candlestick is removed.

Don't be misled to believe that this Laodicean people or church is going to be converted and overcome their wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked condition. So many religious people are deceived today into believing there is coming a great religious awakening where millions of people will be converted and become Christian. This is a very deceitful teaching that practically all denominations teach which give their people a vain hope. For instance, they quote Malachi 4:5-6 which they say God promises to send the prophet Elijah to this world to convert it. Notice, "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse." That sounds like our world is going to get better, doesn't it? But remember God's promises are all conditional and this one is no different. Notice the last part of verse 6: "...lest I come and smite the earth with a curse." Friend, this evil and adulteress generation has caused this old earth to be smitten with a curse. Therefore Elijah the prophet will not be coming. Don't look for him.

### ***The Seven Angels with Seven Trumpets Called Plagues and Woes***

Now we turn our attention to another subject which begins in Revelation 8:2 and ends in Revelation 11:19 called the seven trumpets which will occur after probation closes. These seven trumpets represent seven plagues which will torment the wicked people of this earth after probation closes. Depicted in verses 3-4 are the prayers of the saints, "ascending up before God," delivered by the angel. In other words, the saints are still on earth praying to God in heaven. Verse 6 says the seven angels with the seven trumpets prepared

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themselves to sound. Again, there are seven trumpets and there are seven plagues. Three of these plagues are called woes, and you can plainly see where they take place. Notice, verse 13: "Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound!" It is obvious that this scene is on earth and it will be made clear as we study that these trumpets will sound and these plagues fall upon this earth during the 3 1/2 years or 1260 days just before the second coming of Jesus. Note: In this study you will find no saints standing upon the sea of glass with Jesus or before the throne of God as will be seen in the study of the 7 seals and the 7 last plagues. Why? Because they are still on earth waiting for Jesus to come.

As we consider these trumpets, I want to call your attention especially to the sound of the fifth angel in chapter 9 verses 1-11. This plague is directed at the false leaders, preachers and false prophets who have led the people of this earth to believe false doctrine. The blood of these people will be on the head of the false teachers. This plague torments these people for five months and they cannot die, even though they want to. This punishment is severe and people who have been deceived do not deserve this much torment. However, the leadership who deceives them, does deserve it. Now, we know this fifth plague is one of the three woes. Notice Revelation 9:12: "One woe is past; and, behold, there come two woes more hereafter." The sixth plague is also a woe and when the sixth angel sounds, it brings about that battle mentioned in Daniel 11:40 between the king of the north and the king of the south, which depicts a world wide war. Read Daniel 11:40 and notice that this is a physical battle with ships and chariots and horsemen and it comes at the time of the end, just before Jesus comes the second time. Now, here is the same battle described in Revelation 9:16 under the sixth trumpet or plague: "And the number of the army of the horseman were two hundred thousand thousand..." That is two hundred million men plus their planes, tanks, bombs, etc. Jeremiah saw this time of destruction in Jeremiah 4:19. He said he "...heard...the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war." This is war he is talking about. Notice verse 20: "Destruction upon destruction is cried; for the whole land [world] is spoiled: suddenly

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are my tents spoiled, and my curtains in a moment." Suddenly, in a moment of time, he says, our homes will be destroyed. He is talking about the second coming of Jesus when he says in verse 26, "I beheld, and, lo, the fruitful place was a wilderness, and all the cities thereof were broken down at the presence of the Lord and by his fierce anger." Atomic and hydrogen bombs? Yes, I suppose so. What other kind of war could bring so much destruction suddenly? Especially when man-made armament is used.

Now, we have the seven trumpets or plagues, and their punishment depicted in Revelation 8 and 9. Chapters 10 and 11 enlarge on the subject. The seventh angel has not sounded yet so what we read between the sixth and seventh angel is still referring to this period of time, of the trumpets, and plagues. Revelation 10:1-3 says, "And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven...And he had in His hand a little book open: and He set His right foot upon the sea, and His left foot on the earth, [depicting the entire world], And cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roareth: and when he had cried, seven thunders uttered their voices." Now, even though John was told not to write what the thunders had said, we can know what to expect when we hear thunder—it means there is a storm or trouble on the way. That is exactly what is described in these two chapters. Verses 5-6 say the angel, "...lifted up his hand to heaven, And swore by Him that liveth for ever and ever...that there should be time no longer." This is talking about probationary time. Notice verse 7: "But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when He shall begin to sound, the mystery of God [the gospel] should be finished, as He hath declared to His servants the prophets."

I want you to go back to chapter 8 with me and notice verse 6 which says, "And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound." This constitutes the beginning of all seven angels sounding, so this would be when the seventh angel also begins to sound. At that time the gospel will be finished—even the final gospel message of Revelation 18:4 and probation for the entire world will close. These seven angels will sound bringing upon this world all the plagues mentioned in Revelation 8, 9, 11.

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In Revelation 10:7, we are told when probation is closed and yet in Revelation 10:11 we read these words: "Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings." But, if probation is closed, why prophesy any more? What does this mean? Well, probation closes in verse 7 of chapter 10, but notice what we are told to do in Revelation 11:1— "Rise, and measure [consider] the temple of God, and the altar, and them [the saints] that worship therein." This verse helps us understand Revelation 11:2. If the saints are worshipping in the temple, then those outside of the temple would be the lost of this world. Notice verse 2: "But the court [that's the world] which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they [Gentiles] tread [control] under foot forty and two months." You remember very well when the Gentiles lost control of Jerusalem in the six day war in 1967. They haven't controlled that city since then but this makes it plain that as probation closes for this world, they will gain control of Jerusalem and control it for 42 months or until Jesus comes. So if you want to know when probation is closed, watch Jerusalem and when the Gentiles, and that includes any people except the Jews, take control of that city, probation will be closed. Then comes the trouble spoken of by Jesus in Matthew 24:21: "For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no nor ever shall be." And by the way, remember the second woe began in Revelation 9:13 and the third woe has not come yet so we are still within the period of the seven trumpets and is still referring to the same subject.

Notice, Revelation 11:3: "And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy..." (Remember Revelation 10:11, "Thou must prophesy again.") "...And they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth." That is the same as the 42 months of verse 2. Notice, what these two prophets do. Verse 6 says, "These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all [seven] plagues, as often as they will." These prophets will call down upon this old wicked world those plagues mentioned in Revelation 8 and 9. And when the 1260



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days are over and the testimonies of these messengers are finished (see verse 7) they will be killed and their bodies will be on display for 3 1/2 days. Verse 10 says people will rejoice that these prophets have been killed, "...because these two prophets tormented them that dwell on the earth." So, their prophecy consists not of mercy but of torment.

Note, if you will read the description of the first three plagues mentioned in Revelation 8:7-12 which speaks of the trees and grass being burned up, and the water turning to blood, you can see the affects of the prophecy of Revelation 11:6 when the rain will be stopped during that devastating 1260 days after probation is closed. I agree with Jesus in Matthew 24:21 that these will surely be days of tribulation such as was not since the world began. Now notice how quickly the subject of the seven angels or trumpets ends. Revelation 11:14 says: "The second woe is past..." Remember the second woe began in chapter 9, verse 13. Now chapter 11, verse 14 says, "The second woe is past; and, behold, the third woe cometh quickly." What happens when the third woe comes? Well, we read in Revelation 10:7 that the seventh angel begins to sound. However, we see that in between the "beginning to sound" of Revelation 10:7 and the "sounding" in Revelation 11:15, comes these seven plagues. Notice that "when the seventh angel sounded, I heard voices in heaven saying, the kingdoms of this earth are become the kingdoms of our Lord." To see that this is speaking of the second coming of Jesus, notice verse 18: "And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged..." The judgment of the dead begins when Jesus comes the second time, to give rewards to His prophets and saints and to destroy them that destroyed the earth.

This concludes the study of the trumpets or seven angels. If you will notice, what we have studied on the subject of the seven trumpets only dealt with the wicked people and the plagues they will suffer.

### ***God's People During the Time of the Seven Trumpets***

Revelation 11:1 asks us to consider the temple and them (the saints) that worship therein. Revelation 12 is the chapter that reveals to us what happens to God's people during the 1260 days. Revelation

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12:1-5 introduces us to God's church, who brought forth a man child (Jesus Christ) and the "Great Red Dragon" (Satan) who tried to destroy Him. Revelation 12:6-17 gives the prophecy of this people during the last 1260 days or 3 1/2 years of time after probation closes. Verse 6 says: "And the woman [church] fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days," or 1260 days. The next verse (verse 7) must be considered with an open mind. Have you ever had a minister or anyone else show you from the Bible when Satan was cast out of heaven? I don't believe you have, because it has not happened yet. Satan will be cast out when probation closes and the 1260 days begin. Verse 7 says there was war—maybe a war of words, I do not know exactly how this war will be fought. But perhaps a battle of minds to prove that the evil angels and Satan have no more right to be in heaven. At any rate, they will be cast out. Verse 10 says: "And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night." I do not know why God has permitted Satan to remain in contact with heaven all these years, but we can be assured that God in His great wisdom is doing it for the good of all eternity. Note, Jesus says He saw Satan as lightning fall from heaven, but Jesus was speaking of the future, just like His testimony in the book of Revelation was speaking of this final generation of time.

Satan's place in heaven is still like it was in Job's day. Notice Job 1:6-7, "Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan came also among them. And the Lord said unto Satan, Whence cometh thou? Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it." In Job 2, there was another day when the sons of God gathered and Satan was there. And Satan is still there when the sons of God gather together, and he still accuses God's faithful people here on earth. Remember that Satan is declared to be the god of this world and he is still going to and fro on earth seeking whom he may destroy and when the sons of God present themselves

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before the Lord, you can be sure Satan is there accusing the brethren. If Satan was cast out, as some believe, two or three thousand years ago, then there has been no one to accuse God's people all these years and that is not what this chapter teaches. Revelation 12:1 1-14 proves without a question that this is talking about the final days of this earth's history. "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death," [death decree of Revelation 13]. Verse 12: "Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them" because Satan is cast out. But, "Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea!" Why? "For the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time." Not two or three thousand years, but only three and a half years. That's a short time! Verses 13-14 say that when he is cast out he will persecute God's people and they will be given power to flee into a hiding place where she or they will be nourished for a time, times and half a time. That is three and a half years. So, there is no question but that Revelation 12 is speaking of God's people during the great tribulation days spoken of by Jesus in Matthew 24:21. And it assures us that God's promise to be with us even unto the end, still remains. These are the things that have happened or will happen before the second coming of Jesus.

### ***A Necessary Repetition***

I promised earlier in this book to give the reason for my belief that probation will close for this entire world between now and October 1997. I do not make this statement to set time but to draw your attention to the signs that say the time is at hand.

Jesus plainly says no man knows the day or hour of His coming, but He also says when you see the trees putting forth their buds, you know that summer is nigh. And besides, I am not speaking of the second coming of Jesus; I am referring to the close of probation.

Throughout this book we will talk, or have already talked, about these prophecies, but I believe repetition is necessary for a better understanding of the final message given by our Lord. I believe you will agree that we have seen these things fulfilled in our day, which

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means the coming of our Lord is nigh at hand.

I want to give you 16 prophecies our Lord gave us as He sat upon the Mount of Olives with His disciples and His message to John on the Isle of Patmos that have been fulfilled and most of them in this generation since 1967. After Jesus preached His sermon to the religious leaders (Jews) recorded in Matthew 23, the Bible says in Matthew 24:1, that He departed from the temple and walked up on the Mount of Olives with His disciples. There His disciples questioned Him about the statement He made that not one stone of that great temple would be left upon another, that all would be thrown down. Their question is recorded in Matthew 24:3: "Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of Thy coming, and of the end of the world?" He answered the first question in Luke 21:20: "And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh." History gives the answer to the fulfillment of this prophecy. Remember that history and the Bible are prophecy twins, the Bible says it will happen, and history tells us that it has happened.

Isn't it wonderful that God did not only preserve the Scriptures but He also preserved history! Otherwise, I could not do what I am going to do now and that is to prove that the prophecy Jesus gave on the Isle of Patmos has been fulfilled word for word as He said.

We all know that in AD 70 the Roman armies swept down upon Jerusalem totally destroying and fulfilling the first prophecy Jesus gave, that not one stone would be left upon another that would not be thrown down. In answer to the second question, "what shall be the signs of Thy coming?" Jesus gave this prophecy as found in Matthew 24:6-12: "And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars...but the end is not yet...nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places." All these Jesus says is not the end of the world, but these things "are the beginning of sorrows."

As recorded in Daniel 11, the king of the north and south constantly rising up against each other depicts wars and rumors or

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wars. Also during the past 2000 years we have seen and heard of many famines, earthquakes and pestilences, along with many of God's people being afflicted and many killed. As these things would increase, the coming of Jesus would be more prominent, but not necessarily the end of the world.

His third prophecy is in Luke 21:24, "And they shall fall by the edge of the sword." *They* refers to the approximately one million Jews that were captured in the siege of Jerusalem, some of whom were killed, some were made slaves and helped build the coliseum in Rome that we can see even today, and they and their descendants have been persecuted and killed all these years since and is still fulfilled in our day.

The fourth prophecy is in verse 24 and they "shall be led away captive unto all nations." These Jews from Jerusalem and their descendants have been scattered unto every nation on earth and still holds true today.

The fifth prophecy Jesus gave is also in Luke 21:24. Notice that Jerusalem shall be trodden (controlled) down of the Gentiles (nations) until the time of the Gentiles be fulfilled from the time of the capture of Jerusalem in AD 70 when the Romans which were Gentiles took control of that city until recently. Gentile nations such as Arabs, England, Jordan, etc. have all controlled that city for 19 centuries just as Jesus said they would do.

The sixth prophecy fulfilled is also in Luke 21:24, when He said, "Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled." In other words, there would come a time when the Gentiles would no longer control Jerusalem and that would be when the Gentiles had received the preaching of the gospel and had been given an opportunity to be saved like the Jewish people were given 490 years in Daniel 9:24 to stop their sinning and to accept Jesus as their Messiah, which they did not do, and neither did the Gentiles. So this prophecy was fulfilled in 1967 when in the six day war the Jews took control of old Jerusalem for the first time in 2000 years.

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His next prophecy, number seven, is in Luke 21:25. He said, "And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars." In the 1960's we began to move out into space, and in 1968 we put man on the moon. Since then, we have put satellites out into space, some of them are well over five billion miles from earth out into the stars and suns. You remember the explosions we saw where the seven astronauts died. What a sign that was in the heavens, and many other events could be mentioned in this regard.

Prophecy number eight, verse 25, "upon the earth distress of nations with perplexity." I suppose there has never been a period in the history of the world that has been so stressful to the nations as has been since the 1960's. As the word perplexity means, we don't know how to control the trouble our world is in.

The ninth prophecy says, "men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth." I remember during the Gulf War as I watched a news report, they were speaking of the missiles being shot over into Israel by Iraq. They made the comment that they were not killing the people but many people were having heart attacks from the fear of those missiles. Since then I have heard similar comments about heart attacks because of fear of what is taking place. Think of how many happened that we didn't hear about. In Luke 21:28 Jesus says, "when these things begin to come to pass, then look up...for your redemption draweth nigh." Verse 31 says, "when you see [we are the people who have seen these things] these things come to pass...the kingdom of God is nigh at hand." Verse 32 makes it absolutely clear when this will be. Notice, "This generation shall not pass away, till all be fulfilled."

For prophecy number ten we must go to the book of Revelation for Revelation is a continuation of the discourse Jesus had with His disciples on the Mount of Olives. Revelation 13 talks about a beast rising out of the sea. Verse 2 says this beast is like unto a leopard and his feet as the feet of a bear and his mouth as the mouth of a lion. We know from the study of history that this power is old pagan Rome which today is called Papal Rome. Verse 3 says, "I saw one of his [papal Rome] heads as it was wounded to death and his deadly wound

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was healed.” This prophecy was fulfilled in 1981 when Pope John Paul II, the head of papal Rome was shot and almost died but as we watched a few days later his appearance in the hospital window reminded us that his wound was healing.

In the eleventh prophecy Jesus says in Revelation 13:3 that, “all the world wondered after the beast [or man].” There has never been a man living upon this earth that has received as much praise and honor as Pope John Paul II since he was wounded in 1981.

Prophecy number twelve says in verse 4, “who is like unto the beast [this man]? who is able to make war with him?” This prophecy was fulfilled when Pope John Paul II sent word to Russia saying if you send your troops against Poland, I will go and stand with my people. Russia knew better than to ignore this warning causing the fall of the European nations and the division of Russia.

Prophecy number thirteen is in Revelation 13:11-12, “I beheld another beast...he had two horns like a lamb and he spake as a dragon...and he causeth the earth and them that dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.” As we have already learned, this beast represents the United States of America and the fulfillment of this prophecy was made possible through the last four presidents of America: Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, George Bush and Bill Clinton. Every one of these men in this generation have in one way or another called up the people to praise and honor this man, Pope John Paul II. Jimmy Carter welcomed the pope to America for the first time with the words, “God bless you for coming to America. We are proud to have you here.” Ronald Reagan welcomed him again in Alaska. George Bush called him his “Holy Father.” And, Bill Clinton called him “Your Holiness” and was seen welcoming him to America. These are the first Presidents to do such a thing. Protestantism would not have permitted it before the last generation of time. Why now? Prophecy fulfillment.

The fourteenth prophecy is found in Revelation 13:13. “And he [USA] doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men.” For five long months people listened and watched their news source to see what was going to

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happen in the Persian Gulf. Never was there such an exciting time! When the war finally started, there was not millions of people, there were billions of people, watching as the United States rained down upon Iraq from 30,000 feet in the heavens what they called hell-fire bombs. Never in the history of mankind had there been such a scene and it happened exactly as the prophecy said it would, in the sight of billions of people and in this generation that our Lord said it would happen in.

You will find the fifteenth prophecy in Matthew 24:38-39. "For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage...And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." Think of the increase in the fast food establishments in the past thirty years. Just drive around and notice that every single one of them is nearly full of people day and night. You can now buy alcoholic beverages in almost any grocery store or super market. Have you ever noticed how little respect is paid to the marriage vow as people marry, divorce, marry, divorce and on and on?

Prophecy sixteen is in Luke 17:28, 29: "Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all." Corn fields that were visible just a few years ago are subdivisions now. Woods that I used to walk through are gone now, replaced with houses. You remember when you had to drive for many miles to shop; now you can just walk out your back door into a shopping center. Well I am sure you get the picture, don't you? Then remember Sodom and Gomorrah and the homosexuals who wanted to sexually assault the angels of God. You know that just a few years ago you would have thought there were no homosexuals because they were all in their closets for fear that the society at that time would not accept them, and they were right. But, not today! They are out in force just like they were in Lot's day. They are accepted by our society and they are just as evil as they were when they wanted to assault God's angels. This is one of the greater signs.



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All of these sixteen prophecies are what Jesus said would take place in our world as He sat upon the Mount of Olives with His disciples, and on the Isle of Patmos with John. Nearly everyone of these He said would occur in the last generation of time. That is why Jesus said in Luke 21:32, "Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass away, till all be fulfilled." Notice also, that they all were fulfilled in order, just as listed in the Bible. Amazing!

Now, when did this generation begin? The answer is June of 1967, during the six day war with Egypt and Israel when the Jews took control of Jerusalem for the first time in 1900 years, which brought the time of the Gentiles to an end. See Luke 21:24. How long will this generation last? The answer is until 2001 1/2 which will be 35 years from 1967. Job 42:16 tells us that a generation is 35 years. Notice, "After this lived Job an hundred and forty years, and saw his sons, and his son's sons, even four generations." Now, if probation closes by October 1997 that means we would have three and a half years or 1260 days of the time of tribulation that Jesus mentions in Matthew 24:21 and He says these three and a half years are included in this generation. These three and a half years would bring us to the end of 2000 which would leave one and a half years before the end of this generation. But, remember Jesus says this generation shall not pass till all these things be fulfilled. In other words, it will not go the full generation which means that probation could close any time between now and October 1997. I have stated before and I am still convinced that Jesus will come in this decade. I hope this has convinced you that this is indeed our Prophet for these last days as mentioned in Hebrews 1:1-2. As far as I can tell there is no other prophecies to be fulfilled before probation closes.

The transgressors coming to the full in Daniel 8:23; the Gentiles taking control of Jerusalem again is Revelation 11:2; the daily sacrifice being taken away in Daniel 11:31;—these are some of the prophecies Jesus gave that when fulfilled will bring about the close of probation which could happen anytime now.

The rest of His prophecies in the books of Daniel and Revelation concern the judgment of Revelation 20 and His third coming and the setting up of God's kingdoms promised to His saints in Daniel 7.

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In May of 1996 talks were scheduled to begin to decide the fate of Jerusalem. All eyes will be watching and all ears listening to see what happens. It will be very interesting in light of what Bible prophecy says. In Revelation 11:2 it says that the Gentiles will take control of Jerusalem again and control it for 42 months. That is the last three and a half years of this earth's history. We need to watch and be ready for the time is at hand.

### ***The Judgment of Revelation 20: Its Beginning, Its End***

What you are about to read are the things that will occur after the second coming of Jesus, to His third coming and the setting up of God's kingdom in the new earth. As we read in Revelation 14 that the hour of God's judgment is come and in Revelation 11:18 that, "...the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged..." the judgment of the dead begins at the second coming of Jesus. Both of these statements are speaking about the judgment of Revelation 20. The judgment of Revelation 20 must occur before the destruction of the wicked or the creation of a new heaven and earth. As we open chapter 20, we find an angel coming down who lays hold of Satan and binds him. This is referring to the second coming of Jesus. The way Satan is bound is that Jesus takes His saints to heaven with Him. And according to Paul, all the wicked are destroyed at the appearance of Jesus; they are struck dead at the brightness of His coming according to 2 Thessalonians 2:8. There is no one left to deceive; thus Satan is bound. In verse 4, we find the saints in heaven and notice what they are doing. "And I saw thrones, and they [the saints] sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them..." This is the judgment of the wicked, and even though the wicked lay dead upon the earth and in their graves, their life's record appears in heaven before the great white throne of God to be judged. Notice Revelation 20:11-12, "And I saw a great white throne, and Him [God the Father] that sat on it...And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books [with the records] were opened...and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works." Verse 6 says: "Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the

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second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years." At the end of the thousand years, God fulfills His wonderful promise to His people and gives them a new heaven and a new earth.

Notice the beautiful picture Revelation 19 paints at the end of the judgment. Revelation 19:1 says: "...I heard a great voice of much people in heaven..." There are not "much people" in heaven until Jesus comes the second time and takes His people to be with Him in heaven. So, what are the voices of these people about? "...I heard a great voice of much people in heaven saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God: For true and righteous are His judgments: for He hath [past tense] judged the great whore..." When these voices are heard the judgment is over. Surely this is speaking of the third coming of Jesus. Read verse 7 which is a beautiful thought: "Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to Him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and His wife hath made herself ready." Who is His wife? Let's find the answer in Revelation 21:9-10: "And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife....And He shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God." But, if the holy city, new Jerusalem, is His bride or wife, how has she made herself ready for the Lamb? Notice Revelation 19:8: "And to her was granted that she [the city] should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of the saints."

In other words, His saints within that city dressed in robes of white adorns the bride. But, what happens after the judgment is over and this holy city, along with God, Jesus, and His saints, is here on earth? Read Revelation 20:7: "And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison." How is Satan loosed? Verse 6 says: "Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power..." Now the very fact that He mentions the first resurrection indicates there must be a second resurrection. It is at the end of the thousand years that

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the second resurrection takes place. Notice verse 5: "But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years [or judgment] were finished." The wicked are raised and Satan is loosed at the end of the thousand years, for now he has someone to deceive. Notice verses 7-8: "...Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, And shall go out to deceive the nations...of the earth...to gather them together to battle." Against who and what? Verse 9 says: "And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city..." [New Jerusalem]. What happens? "...And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them."

### ***The Opening of the Seven Seals***

**—Where? When? Why?**

This study of the seven seals begins in Revelation 4 and ends in Revelation 8:1. Many ideas have been tossed around about the subject of the seven seals—what they are and when they are to take place. Some say they have already taken place. Some say they are happening now; some believe they will happen just before Jesus comes again.

I want to tell you at the beginning of this study when the seals will be opened and then let the Bible give you the interpretation of this truth. These seals will be opened at the end of the 1000 year judgment of Revelation 20. Now, I have no right to make this comment unless I can prove it from the Bible and the Bible only. Revelation 4-7 concerns the seven seals, and asks the question of who is worthy to open these seals and when they will be opened. It also answers the question of where this will take place and who will be there when these seals are opened.

Notice, Revelation 4:1: "After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter." The vision next reveals to John a throne in heaven, "and One [God the Father] sat on the throne." He next sees 24 seats and 24 elders sitting upon them. These 24 elders fall before the throne saying, "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created." They are speaking to

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God the Father. It is important that you understand that this vision given to John, was about something that would occur in the future and it would occur in heaven before the throne of God.

As we study chapter 5, we find God the Father sitting on the throne with a book in His hand, written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals, and an angel inquiring if there is anyone found worthy to open these seals. And there was not a man in heaven or earth worthy to open those seals, until they looked in the midst of the throne and the elders, (see Revelation 5:6). They saw standing there a Lamb (Jesus Christ) and they sang a song saying, "Thou art worthy to take the book, and open the seals thereof..." Revelation 5:9. Why? Because, "...Thou wast slain, and hast redeemed [past tense] us to God by Thy blood..." The scene is unfolding before the throne of God, and there are 24 elders seated before the throne, and there are those that have been redeemed by the blood of Jesus from every kindred, and tongue, and people and nation. This can only represent His saints who are singing a new song, saying that Jesus is worthy to open those seals. This is a scene shown to John that will take place at the end of the thousand years after the judgment of the wicked is over. These seven seals depict the third coming of Jesus and the punishment of the wicked. Notice the last verse of chapter 6, under the 6th seal "for the great day of His wrath is come and who shall be able to stand." That certainly is talking of the reward of the wicked at the end of the judgment.

Chapter 6 begins with Jesus opening one of the seals. Verse 2 says, "And I saw, and behold a white horse: and He that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer." Folk, this is Jesus leaving heaven with His saints and the Holy City that John later in this book sees coming down from heaven at the end of the thousand years. To show this is true, we read in Revelation 19:11-14 an account of the same moment of time: "And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and He that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He doth judge and make war." Remember when the first seal opened and this white horse and his rider went forth conquering and to conquer, "to make war." Compare this with Revelation 19:14, "And

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the armies which were in heaven followed Him upon white horses..." Without a question of doubt these are the saints, coming with Him as He "treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God." Revelation 19:15.

Let's go back to Revelation 6:7, 8 and notice the fourth seal. "And when He had opened the fourth seal...I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, [the last enemy to be destroyed] and Hell followed with him...to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth." Revelation 19:17, 18 depicts this scene as the supper of the great God, as the birds of the air and beasts of the field eat the flesh of "kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men..." This is surely speaking of His third coming as Jesus does not make war at His second coming. Neither do the birds eat flesh at His second coming. Jeremiah 4:25 says, "...all the birds of the heavens were fled." At the second coming of Jesus, they lay dung upon the earth to rot and decay away. They are neither gathered nor burned.

In the fifth seal, His saints are given white robes and they ask the question, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?" The saints are present during the opening of this fifth seal for they have received their robes of white and are obviously anxious to possess the kingdom promised to them in Daniel 7, and they want to know how long it will be. Can you possibly anticipate what a glorious moment that will be, standing there in your white robe, waiting to cast your eyes upon the new heaven and new earth promised of God. No wonder they cry out, "How long, O Lord?" Note, waiting for their fellow servants and brethren to be killed as they were is not speaking of the saints, for the saints have received their robes of white. This is speaking of the lost fellow servants and brethren that they dwelt with on earth and they must wait until these folks have been destroyed by the fire that comes down from God out of heaven.

When the sixth seal is opened, we see the kings of the earth, great men, hide themselves in the rocks and mountains and cry for the rocks and mountains to fall on them and hide them from the wrath

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of the Lamb, for the great day of His wrath is come. There is no wrath at the second coming of Jesus; the wicked fall dead or are destroyed at the brightness of His coming.

Now, Revelation 7 is still a part of this same subject. If you will notice the seventh seal has not yet been opened. So, chapter 7 enlarges on who this army is with Jesus as He comes to make war. And by the way, if you want to know what war we are referring to, Revelation 20:7-8 tells us, "And when the thousand years are expired, [and that is exactly the period of time these seals represent] Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle..." What battle? Verse 9 says it is a battle against Jesus Christ, the saints of God and the Holy City. Chapter 7 will explain who the people are that are redeemed in Revelation 5:9, from every nation, tongue and people. In Revelation 7:1 John saw four angels holding back this battle we just read about until the judgment is over and God's saints have received their robes and have been sealed. This sealing is described in Revelation 14:1 as the saints with Jesus who have "His Father's name written in their foreheads." These winds of strife are depictive of the punishment of the wicked, so the sealing of God's saints takes place at the end of the judgment and not before the second coming of Jesus.

I want to bring the first five verses of Revelation 14 over and connect them with this subject. I do not know why these five verses are placed in Revelation 14 but we can fit them here in Revelation 7 while discussing the 144,000. Notice the first verse: "And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the Mount Zion, and with Him an hundred forty and four thousand..." Verse 4 says, "These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb." Remember this is not just a small number of God's saints; these are His people, these are those who have been saved from Adam to you and me. All saved people follow Jesus wherever He goes and all the saved of the earth are those who have been redeemed from among men. They are the firstfruits of all mankind. In other words, they are the only human beings "without fault before God." John says in Revelation 7:4: "And

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I heard..." He did not see these people who had been sealed at this time, but he heard the number. "And there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel [God's people]." Then in verse 9 he saw, these same people "of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands." He also saw them in Revelation 14. This is the same people mentioned in chapter 5:9. They are without a doubt God's saints and they are already in heaven and that must surely be after the second coming of Jesus. Now, as for the number that John could not count, this is referring to the fact that these people were standing on the sea of glass as it were, shouting praises to their God. They, no doubt, were moving around so they could not be counted. Notice, the same type of event in Luke 12:1: "...there were gathered together an innumerable number of people..." Why were they innumerable? Because, "they trode one upon another..." If you have a large crowd you cannot count them unless they remain still. So, in Revelation 7:9 John saw the same number he heard, "one hundred and forty and four thousand." In Revelation 7:13, the question is asked, "What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?" Verses 14-15 answer, "These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." Now folk, this scene places us at the end of the thousand years with Jesus and God as we come in the Holy City to take possession of the kingdom promised us. The next verses place us on this earth with Jesus. Notice, verses 16-17: "They shall hunger no more...For the Lamb [Jesus]...shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes." This is exactly the same promise in Revelation 21:4. After the holy city is come down and God's name has been vindicated and His universe made perfectly clean for the first time in six thousand years, then there will be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying.

Revelation 8:1 ends this subject abruptly when it says, "And when He had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour." Why? Because the holy city with



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God, Jesus, the saints and the angels have all come to this earth to dwell together forever and thus silence in heaven. There is just no question but that these seven seals close the judgment in heaven and forever end the reign of sin. When the seventh seal is opened, death will be swallowed up in victory and the last enemy (death) will be destroyed.

I want to be in that number and moment of time. Don't you? You may want to question the 144,000 as being a total number of saints. If so, then consider this: How many were saved in Noah's day? How many in Moses' day? How many in Lot's day? How many in Jeremiah's day? (See Jeremiah 5:1.) In Daniel's day? In the days of Jesus? Notwithstanding that Jesus said there would be only a few and He associated this statement with Noah's day. The fact that Jesus did not make this statement about the 144,000 until He had spent approximately 70 years with His Father in heaven, they knew what had been and what would be when this prophecy was given. The 144,000 constitutes God's people of all ages. You can be one of that number if you hold fast to the truth. But if you let go, then someone else will take your crown (Revelation 3:11). Sometime search your Bible and see how many it says are actually going to be saved. You may be surprised how few are listed as God's saints.

### ***The Seven Last Plagues—When?***

Contrary to what most of the religious world believes, the seven last plagues will not occur at the second coming of Jesus, but at His third coming. Revelation 15:1 introduces us to the seven last plagues in these words: "And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous, seven angels having the seven last plagues, for in them is filled up the wrath of God." Three things we need to notice about this first verse.

1. The vision given John is a scene in *heaven*.
2. It refers to these plagues as the *last plagues*.
3. They have within them the fullness of God's wrath.

This scene reveals to us the fact that the thousand year judgment of Revelation 20 is over and Jesus is about to return to this earth with His saints to make war with Satan and his evil forces. Revelation

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15:1 makes the statement that these plagues are filled with the "wrath of God" which does not happen at the second coming of Jesus.

Notice Revelation 15:2: "And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them [the saints] that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God." The saints are already in heaven when these seven angels are introduced to John with the seven last plagues, so obviously, they haven't been poured out yet.

There is also much evidence that the judgment has ended. Verse 3 says: "And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvelous are Thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are Thy ways, Thou King of saints." This is referring to God's justness in judgment.

Verse 4: "Who shall not fear Thee, O Lord...for Thy judgments are made manifest [known]." Notice Revelation 16:5: "O Lord, which art, and wast, and shalt be, because Thou hast judged thus" (past tense). Verse 7: "...true and righteous are Thy judgments." There is no question but this is referring to the fact that the judgment is over and it is time for the third coming of Jesus with God the Father and all the saints.

Revelation 16:1 says: "And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth." We find no such action at the second coming of Jesus. Jesus comes to receive His saints. Paul says the wicked are destroyed by the brightness of His coming. Jeremiah says they are neither gathered nor buried; they lay dung upon the earth. These seven last plagues will be poured out at the third coming of Jesus and are described as the wrath of God.

Revelation 16:2 says: "And the first went..." Verse 3 says: "And the second angel poured out his vial..." And then the third and fourth and fifth. And, when the sixth plague is poured out, verses 13-14 say: "And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working

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miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty." This is not speaking of the second coming of Jesus. The second coming of Jesus is a marvelous, glorious day when the saints will go to be with Him in heaven. See John 14:1-3. But, it is not the great day of God Almighty. The great day of God is when he destroys sin and sinners from the face of the earth and His universe becomes perfectly clean for the first time in over seven thousand years. That's the day that He has been waiting for so long. It is the most important day of all eternity to God. It is the day His name is forever cleared of any wrong doing and He once again becomes all in all. Notice 1 Corinthians 15:28, "And when all things shall be subdued unto Him, then shall the Son also Himself be subject unto Him that put all things under Him, that God may be all in all." Verse 24: "Then cometh the end, when He shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when He shall have put down all rule and all authority and power." This great day of God Almighty is the final battle of all eternity that we call Armageddon.

Notice Revelation 19:11-14: "And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and He that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war." What war is John referring to here? Read Revelation 20:7-8: "And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth [whole world], Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle." Revelation 19:14 says: "And the armies [saints] which were in heaven followed Him [Jesus] upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean." Satan's army is described in Revelation 20:8 as "...the number of whom is as the sand of the sea."

Remember Revelation 16:13, 14 where it says the dragon, beast, and false prophet shall, "...go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty." Revelation 17:12 says: "And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast" [devil]. These kings

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are representative of the nations of the earth, Gog and Magog, of Revelation 20:8. Notice Revelation 17:14, "These [ten kings] shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them..." This is the same war mentioned in Revelation 19:11-14. Surely, it is clear to you that the seven last plagues come at the third coming of Jesus and not at His second. Remember at this time the second resurrection takes place and all the former kings of earth will be there—King of Babylon, King of Persia, King of Greece, King of Rome, etc. and, these are the ones this dragon, beast and false prophet of Revelation 16 goes to gather together for that great day of God Almighty. Note this one hour does not depict only 60 minutes. It is a period of time probably known only to God. You could not make war in 60 minutes, could you?

I want you to notice two more verses about these plagues. In Revelation 17:1 we read: "And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment [punishment] of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters." In Revelation 21:9-10 we read, "And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife....And He shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God..." This angel still had his vial of plagues when he showed John the holy city coming down. And when is that? Revelation 21:1-2 says: "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth...And I John, saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband." This needs no more explanation, does it?

At this point, I want to make a statement about my books, *The Sure Word of Prophecy* and *Who's to Blame for All This Shame?* In these books I said that the seven last plagues would be poured out before the second coming of Jesus. I also said that the battle of Armageddon would take place before the second coming of Jesus. I was wrong. I now know that the plagues of Revelation 8-11 will come before the second coming of Jesus and the seven last plagues will come at His third coming. I was taught from 1959 until recently

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that these seven last plagues were before the second coming of Jesus and I printed this in my books. Now I am thankful to God for leading me to this truth and I am doing this to set an example that we all should be willing to follow if we find we are wrong in some way. This has also taught me to never take man's word without searching the Scripture to see if the teaching is true.

### *The Identity and Punishment of the Woman, Her Harlot Daughter and the Scarlet Colored Beast*

Revelation 17-18 describe what happens and to whom it happens when this fire comes down from heaven. I must press the truth of this matter upon you that there is no fire at the **second** coming of Jesus. These chapters are referring to the **third** coming of Jesus. Many people have been taught otherwise, but the truth is that these chapters are strictly about the great wrath of God Almighty, when He cleanses His universe of all sin. In these chapters (17-18) God has prepared a special punishment for the "woman" (the Catholic leadership), the "beast" (which represents spiritualism and the devil), and the false "prophets" (false Protestant leadership). Notice Revelation 17:1: "And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment [punishment] of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters."

This word "judgment" refers both to searching of records and punishment; in this verse it means punishment. Verse 3 says: "So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns." This beast is the devil himself. He is the one who gave her power. Verse 5 says: "And upon her forehead was a name written, **MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.**" These harlots are the false Protestant churches and leaders who have followed this woman, the papacy. These all constitute the three powers of Revelation 16:13: the dragon (Satan), the beast (papacy), and false prophets (false Protestantism).

In Revelation 17:6 John said, "And when I saw her, I wondered

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with great admiration." The angel answered in verse 7: "Wherefore didst thou marvel? I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her..." He tells the mystery of the beast (the devil) first. Notice, verse 8: "The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition..." This is a perfect description of Satan himself. Before the second coming of Jesus, Satan was loose in this world destroying the souls of man. In other words, *he was*. But, at Christ's second coming, he is cast into the bottomless pit and is the same as *he is not* for a thousand years and after the thousand years are expired he is *loosed again*. He was and then was not and then he ascended out of the bottomless pit and goes into perdition. That word perdition means total destruction, and refers to Satan being cast into the lake of fire. But before his destruction, Revelation 17:12 says there are ten kings who represent the nations of the earth. Notice: "And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast." This is referring to the time when after the second resurrection, the kings of Babylon, Media Persia, Greece, Rome, etc. will be given power as kings for a period of time. To understand this, read Revelation 20:7, 8: "...Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, And shall go out to deceive the nations...of the earth...to gather them together to battle." Read Revelation 17:14: "These shall make war with the lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them..." This is the battle depicted in Revelation 16:13, 14: "And I saw three unclean spirits...For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty."

I want you to notice verse 11 carefully. "And the beast that was," that is the devil, and he was, "and is not," he had been in the bottomless pit, "even he is the eighth, and is of the seven, and goeth into perdition." There is that word "perdition" again,—utter destruction: he goes into utter destruction.

Now, let's think of these scriptures. When Satan is cast into the bottomless pit at Christ's second coming, he will have already become the seventh that was not yet come when John saw this vision in

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verse 9. When he ascends out of the bottomless pit at the end of the millennium, Revelation 20:7, he is called the eighth because he has been as though he was not for 1000 years but now is loosed a little season to continue to deceive the world the same as he once did and in this sense he is called the eighth but is still the same old devil that he was in the seventh. Therefore, he is still of the seventh and goes into perdition, utter destruction. Now it is important you get that straight in your mind. Read it again if necessary.

The angel tells John about the woman. The first eight verses of chapter 18 reveal the fall of this woman, which of course represents all the apostate religious organizations, the mother and her harlot daughters. They are called Babylon the Great. The first part of verse 8 says, "...her plagues come in one day." Her plagues are, "...death, and mourning, and famine." We know this one day does not represent one year and neither is it just one day, Jesus calls this period of time the great tribulation days such as never was since the world began. This is talking about the last 3 1/2 years before the second coming of Jesus. The last part of verse 8 says: "...and she shall be utterly burned with fire..." That takes place at the third coming of Christ. You see, the first eight verses of this chapter is only an introduction to the subject of the mystery of the woman and a call for God's people to separate from her. The rest of chapter 18 deals with her punishment. Notice the last part of verse 8 again: "...and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her." Now read verse 10: "Standing afar off for the fear of her torment...for in one hour is thy judgment [punishment] come." This one hour represents a period of time, probably only known to God Himself. Do you see how to separate these plagues of death, mourning, and famine from the torment of flames of fire? Notice that her plagues come in one day but her punishment comes in one hour. The plagues come before the thousand year judgment and the torment comes after the thousand years. Revelation 18:8 separates these two events by one thousand years. Again, speaking of her punishment, verse 17 says: "For in one hour so great riches is come to naught." In verse 21 we read that with "violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all." Why is her punishment so great? Revelation

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18:13 says she merchandises in, "slaves, and souls of men" through her deceitfulness and for merchandise she sheds the blood of "prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth" (verse 24) and her punishment shall be according to her works. Revelation 22:12. Remember that all apostate religious organizations are a part of this fallen Babylon, and God's people are in at least one of them. We would do well to find out which one so we can obey God and come out of her.

### ***Revelation 19 and the Battle of All Ages***

Now we turn to Revelation 19 and read about that great battle of the great day of God Almighty. Verse 11 says: "And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and He that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He doth judge and make war." Verse 14 tells us that His saints are with Him when this war is fought. "And the armies which were in heaven followed Him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean." Remember the saints in Revelation 19:8 are dressed in linen, "clean and white." Then comes the wrath of Almighty God. Read the last part of verse 15: And "He [Christ] treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God." In verse 17, the angel calls upon the fowls of the air to gather themselves together to the "supper of the great God," that they "...may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men..." Once again, verse 19 describes the battle of the great day of God Almighty. "And I saw the beast [Satan], and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him that sat on the horse, and against His army." And, here we come to the end of all sin and sinners. Verse 20: "And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet...These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone." For an account of the fate of Satan read Revelation 20:10: "And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever." Verse 14 says: "And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death." Death is swallowed up in victory.



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### ***The Promise of A New Heaven and Earth Wherein Dwelleth Righteousness***

Dear Friend, it has taken a long time and God's people have come a long way. Hebrews 11 says that many of God's saints have been asleep for hundreds of years waiting for the promise. And here is where God fulfills His promise of Daniel 7:27 and Revelation 21:3-5—and the kingdom and dominion shall be given to the saints of the Most High. "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea." Verses 3-5: "And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away....Behold, I make all things new." No wonder those people in Revelation 19:1 were shouting "Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power..." to the great God of the universe!

The remainder of Revelation 21 describes that beautiful city of God prepared for His saints. Revelation 21:10, 11 says: "...And he shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal." Verse 12 speaks of twelve gates with the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel. You remember Revelation 7 and the 144,000 saints, 12,000 of each tribe. Here is a gate for each tribe to enter that city. It has their name written there. Verse 21 says the twelve gates were "...twelve pearls: every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass." There will be no need of the sun in that city because the, "...glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof," (verse 23). Notice verse 24: "And the nations [twelve tribes] of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth [of these tribes] do bring their glory and honour into it." Verse 27 assures us that nothing that defiles will walk through the streets. There will be no polluted

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rivers there. Notice Revelation 22:1: "And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb." This chapter promises there will be, "no more curse." It also promises in verse 14 that blessed will be they that have and do, "His commandments" and that they will have a right to the "tree of life."

Remember our study on the seven churches? Here in Revelation 22:16 we read, "I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches." This study proves without a question of doubt that chapters 17-22 refer to the period when God deals with the judgment of the wicked and then sets up His kingdom, the new heaven and earth, which is to be given to His saints. I plan to be a member of one of those twelve tribes who will make up the nations of the new earth. I am planning to take up residence in my mansion Jesus said He went to prepare for me in John 14:2. I also plan to build my own house in the new earth as promised in Isaiah 65:21 and to plant a vineyard or garden. And I am looking forward to going from my home in the country to my mansion in the Holy City from one Sabbath to another, to worship my God and praise Him for what he has done for me. I can hardly wait for that day! How about you?

Jim Renfro

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